(c) what is the time-frame for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tenders for widening NH-8 between Vadodara and Surat from four-lane to six-lanes have been received. However, Government approval for this work is awaited.

The work is likely to be awarded during 2005-06 and completed by December, 2008 subject to Government approval for this project during the current year.

Study of road safety matters

2556. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently formed a sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary to study road safety matters in Europe, etc.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that only non-experts have been nominated to this Committee;

(d) the reasons for excluding pioneers in road safety matters in the country in this body; and

(e) the steps proposed to include a representative of the road safety forum in this study group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A Committee has been appointed to deliberate and recommend on creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Regulations under the Chairmanship of Shri S. Sundar, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy Research Institute and former Secretary of the then Ministry of Surface Transport. Other members of the Committee represent various Government agencies/Institutions/Organisations/Non-Governmental Organizations/academic institution associated with preventive and curative aspects of road safety. The terms of reference for the Committee include

a study of international examples of road safety organizations for road safety and traffic regulations with a view to drawing lessons for India. The Committee has been asked to give its recommendations by 31st January, 2006 to enable a final decision by Committee on Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Deploying of ambulances by NHAI

2557. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ambulances presently deployed by NHAI all over the country;

(b) the role of these ambulances;

(c) whether it is a fact that project Directors at various places do not show interest in road safety and management of accidents;

(d) what steps would be proposed to conduct some pilot studies on NH-5 to determine how to reduce road-accidents; and

(e) the steps proposed to make the NH-5 an accident free highway in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) At present 72 ambulances have been deployed for road safety purposes on some sections of National Highways entrusted to the Authority.

(b) The ambulances are kept with the provisions of first aid to provide immediate relief to the accident victims. As per the condition of the victims after first aid, they are sent to the nearest hospital for further treatment.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) At present no specific pilot study for NH-5 is proposed. Provision of road markings, crash barriers and proper signages are made to help the road user for their safety. Provision of ambulances, patrol vehicles and tow away cranes are also made to help the victims of